

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended to avoid the rejections of record. Claim 4 is withdrawn, as the substance of that claim now is incorporated in Claim 1. Claims 1-3 and 5-9 remain, with no claim previously allowed.

The concurrently-submitted IDS discloses art cited in a parallel European patent application. A copy of the European Search Report is included with that IDS, showing that the EPO Examiner cited *Riedel* (US – 5,631,073) as the most pertinent prior art (Category X). The other documents therein were cited under Category A, background of the invention. Accordingly, the present response takes into consideration *Riedel* as well as *Mamish* (US – 5,227,225), the reference applied by the Examiner for the art rejection of record.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, in view of the term “uninterrupted” added to Claim 1 in the previous response. The present amendment to Claim 1 withdraws that term. Accordingly, that rejection should be withdrawn.

Added to Claim 1 by the present amendment is the requirement of a basis weight in a certain range “so as to achieve cohesion of the fibers . . .”. That limitation finds support on page 1, paragraph 5, lines 2 and 3 of the specification. “Cohesion of the fibers” expresses the intent that the fibers are bonded together without holes, unlike the arrangement described by *Mamish*.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected as unpatentable over *Mamish*. The applicant respectfully traverses that rejection as possibly applied to the amended claims.

The layer structure of the tape according to the present invention is: an impregnated support, and an adhesive coating adjacent to the support.

The layer structure of the tape according to *Mamish* is: embedded support, backing (barrier) layer, and adhesive coating (cf. column 1, lines 56-57).

Considering first *Riedel*, cited in the IDS, that reference discloses nonwoven sheet materials and pressure sensitive adhesive tapes formed from nonwoven sheet materials. The nonwoven sheet materials in *Riedel* comprise a randomly-interlaced fibrous web of tensilized nonfracturable staple fibers and binder fibers, wherein the fibrous web is pattern embossed and is interbonded by a chemical bonding agent, physical entanglement, or a combination thereof, and further wherein the nonwoven sheet material is readily finger-tearable in the cross-web direction. A wide variety of binding agents can be applied. *Riedel* teaches it is preferable that the chemical binding agent comprise a water-based chemical binder, not a thermoplastic resin as is the case according to the present invention.

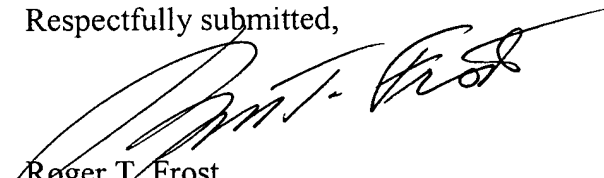
Neither *Riedel* nor *Mamish* describes an impregnation with a thermoplastic resin with a basis weight of 1 to 5 g/m² as was stated in original Claim 4 and now in amended Claim 1. With regard to this feature, the Examiner asserted in Section 4 of the first Office action that the content of Claim 4 is "believed to be either inherent or an obvious optimization". This is not the case. Because of the presence of the resin in the form of a backing layer according to *Mamish*, an impregnation with a thermoplastic resin with the basic weight of 1 to 5 g/m² is excluded. The resin must be present with a basis weight which is greater than the weight of the web and, consequently, much greater than 1 to 5 g/m². ?

Riedel describes an impregnation with a chemical bonding agent with a basis weight of 10 to 40 g/m², preferably 15 to 30 g/m² (col. 8, ll. 37-38). In this regard, it is preferred that the weight ratio of the fibers to the chemical binding agent is from about 5:1 to about 1:5, or preferably from about 3:1 to about 1:3, and most preferably from about 2:1 to 1:2 (cf. column 8, lines 32-43). In contrast to that teaching of *Riedel*, a basis weight of the support of not more than 60 g/m² and a basis weight of the impregnation of 1 to 5 g/m², which the inventors claim, leads to a weight ratio of the fibers to the thermoplastic resin from about 60:1 to about 8:1, if the lowest disclosed value of the basis weight of the

support is assumed for the latter. This is a quantitative measure for the fact that the support according to the present invention has much denser structure than the support of Mamish or Riedel, which is achieved with an advantageous small consumption of thermoplastic resin and ensures that a penetration of the adhesive coating through the textile tape support is prevented. ?

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office action identified above. This application now should be in condition for allowance and the applicants solicit a notice to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Claims:

Claim 1 is amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) Textile adhesive tape comprising:
an adhesive tape support (1), formed by a textile, mechanically reinforced,
[uninterrupted] nonwoven material having a basis weight of not more than 60 g/m²; and
an adhesive coating (2) adjacent to the tape support on at least at one side of
said tape support;
wherein the nonwoven material [has a basis weight of not more than 60 g/m²
and] is impregnated with a thermoplastic resin with a basis weight of the impregnation of 1
to 5 g/m², so as to achieve cohesion of the fibers and prevent penetration of the adhesive
coating through the textile tape support.

Claim 4 is canceled without prejudice.